

ANNUAL

MARVEL[®]
ONE-SHOT
1

The Sensational **SPIDER-MAN[®]**



FRACTION
LARROCA

The Sensational **SPIDER-MAN**

When the U.S. government passed the Superhuman Registration Act, Peter Parker came out in favor of the new law and revealed his secret identity as Spider-Man to the world.

But after reconsidering the cause he'd chosen to support, Peter switched sides to oppose registration, and joined Captain America in the fight against the government forces led by Iron Man.



Now the repercussions of Peter's decisions are coming back to haunt him.

Because Peter's identity is public knowledge, his wife, Mary Jane, and his beloved Aunt May have become targets of the world's most dangerous criminals. Recently, May was shot by a sniper's bullet, and now barely clings to life. This has led Peter to don his black costume as a symbol that he's not the hero he used to be.

And Peter himself is a wanted man, on the run from the law enforcement agency S.H.I.E.L.D. His fugitive status has also implicated MJ and May, for aiding and abetting his escape.



I'M GONNA
TAKE MY HAND AWAY
NOW, ALL RIGHT? THE
BIG REVEAL.

OKAY.

NO,
WAIT. I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
READY.

I'M READY!
I'M TOTALLY
READY.



YOU SAY
YOU'RE READY,
BUT YOU'RE
NOT.

WELL,
WHATEVER. BESIDES,
AFTER I WENT TO THE
TROUBLE OF GETTING
US UP HERE...



...WE'RE
GONNA HAVE TO
WORK TOGETHER
TO GET DOWN.



OH MY
GOD.
PETER...

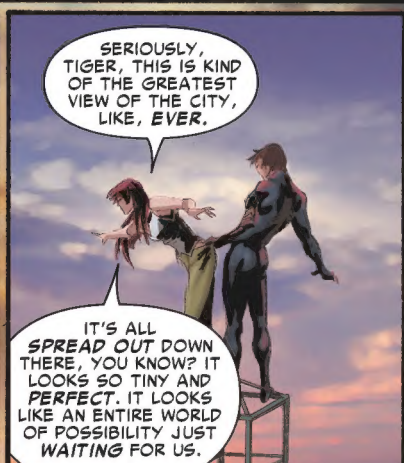


PETER,
THIS VIEW--
IT'S--
THANK YOU
FOR THIS.



THERE ARE, IN FACT,
BRIEF AND FLEETING
MOMENTS WHEN MY
LIFE IS TOTALLY
AWESOME, YES.

MAN!

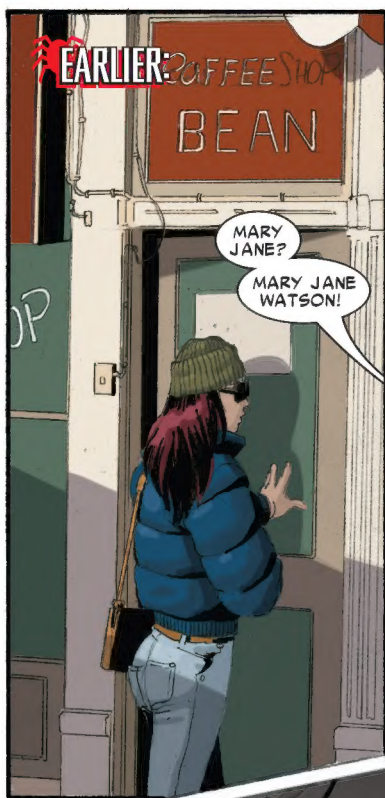


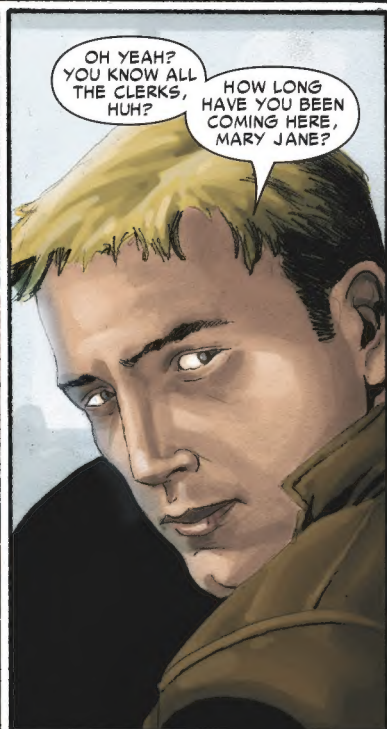
SERIOUSLY,
TIGER, THIS IS KIND
OF THE GREATEST
VIEW OF THE CITY,
LIKE, EVER.

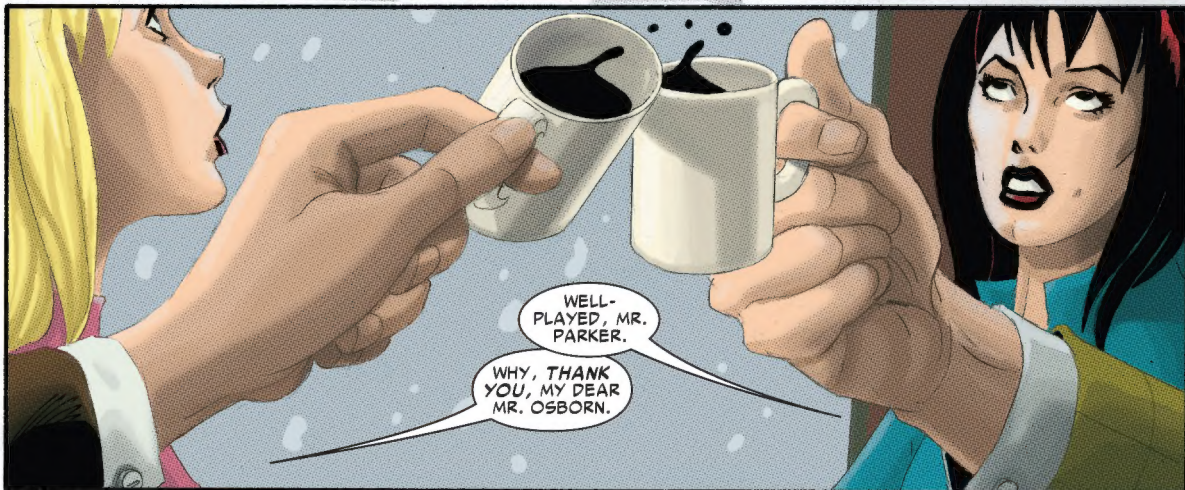
IT'S ALL
SPREAD OUT DOWN
THERE, YOU KNOW? IT
LOOKS SO TINY AND
PERFECT. IT LOOKS
LIKE AN ENTIRE WORLD
OF POSSIBILITY JUST
WAITING FOR US.



UP HERE
WE CAN BE
ANYBODY WE
WANT.









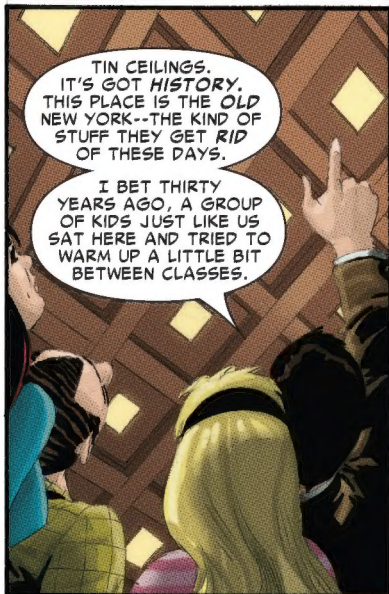
FOR REAL, YOU GUYS? WHY ARE WE STAYING HERE? THIS PLACE IS THOROUGHLY UNGLAMOROUS AND UTTERLY UNBEEFITTING US ULTRA-VIXENY VIXEN-TYPES.

IT'S TRUE. I CAN FEEL MORE AND MORE PEOPLE NOT CARING ABOUT ME BY THE SECOND.



THERE'S CHARACTER HERE. IN THE TABLES. IN THE WALLS.

MAYBE KEROUAC HUNG OUT HERE. OR MAYBE O. HENRY.



TIN CEILINGS. IT'S GOT HISTORY. THIS PLACE IS THE OLD NEW YORK--THE KIND OF STUFF THEY GET RID OF THESE DAYS.

I BET THIRTY YEARS AGO, A GROUP OF KIDS JUST LIKE US SAT HERE AND TRIED TO WARM UP A LITTLE BIT BETWEEN CLASSES.



YEAH! AND THEY WERE LIKE, "OH MY GOD, DID YOU HEAR? PRESIDENT LINCOLN GOT SHOT YESTERDAY." THEN THEY ALL DIED OF CHOLERA WHILE DRINKING THREE-DOLLAR CUPS OF GOD'S OWN BOILED MUD.

HEY!



YOU MAY MAKE MOCK, MS. MARY JANE--

AND MOCK YOU MAY, BUT STILL MY POINT REMAINS...

MAY I? OH, I MUST, MR. PARKER, I MUST!--



I LIKE IT HERE. IT DOESN'T ATTRACT A LOT OF ATTENTION. IT FEELS QUIET. IT FEELS SAFE...

...LIKE THE FOUR OF US COULD STAY HERE FOREVER.



...FOREVER, I GUESS.

I'VE BEEN COMING HERE FOREVER.



SORRY. I WAS A MILLION MILES AWAY THERE FOR A SECOND.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRADY? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS? SECURITY, YOU SAID?



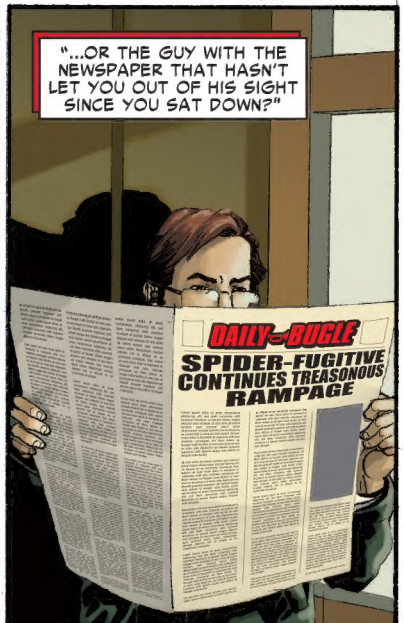
YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET?



"THE KID AT THE REGISTER..."



"THE NEW GUY BUSING TABLES..."



"...OR THE GUY WITH THE NEWSPAPER THAT HASN'T LET YOU OUT OF HIS SIGHT SINCE YOU SAT DOWN?"



OH, NO--



OH YEAH.

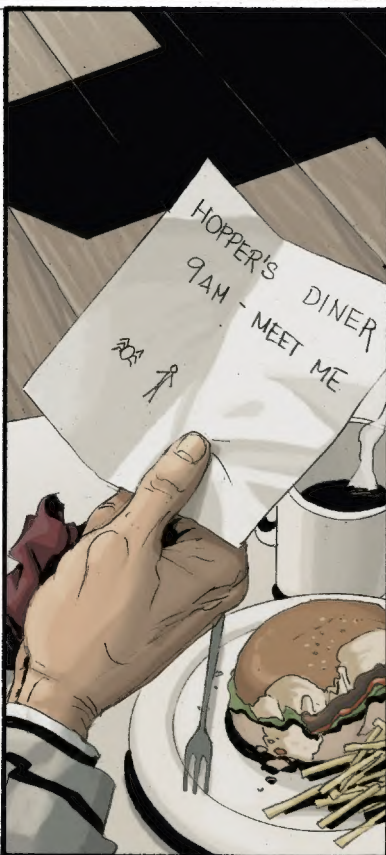
YOU THINK I HAVEN'T READ THE NEWS THE LAST SIX MONTHS, MARY JANE? YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHO YOU'RE MARRIED TO?

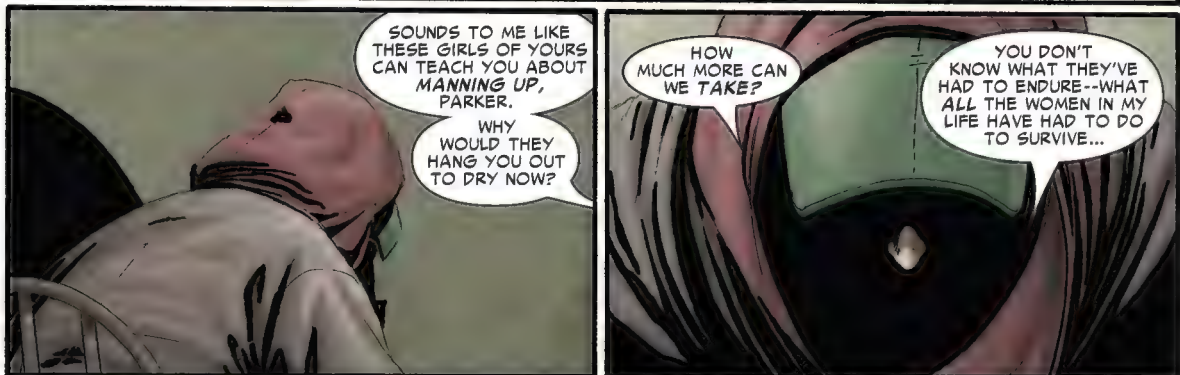
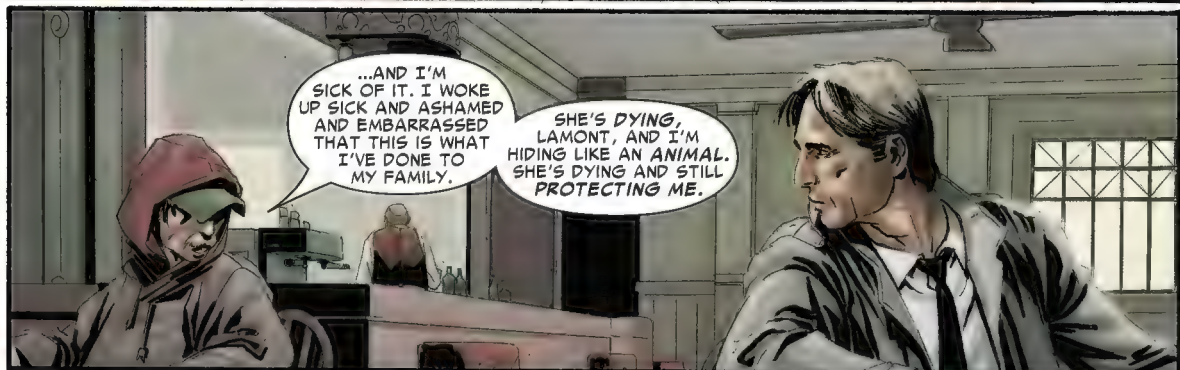
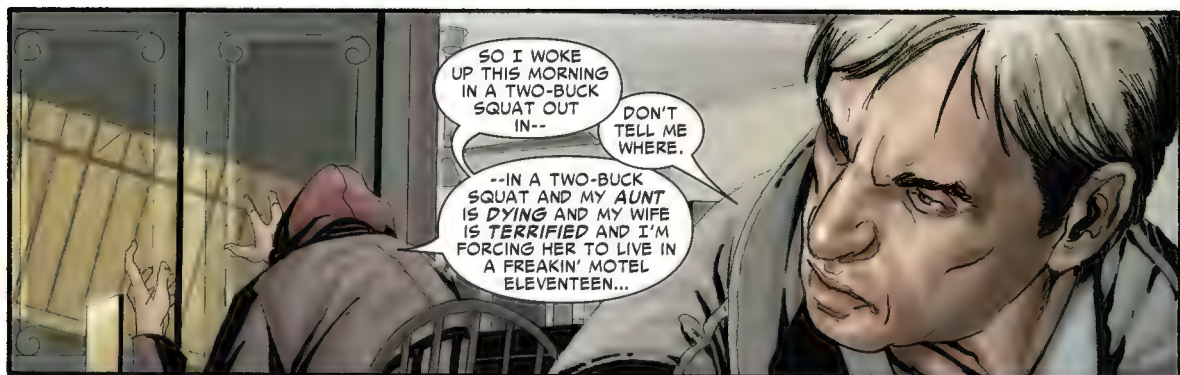


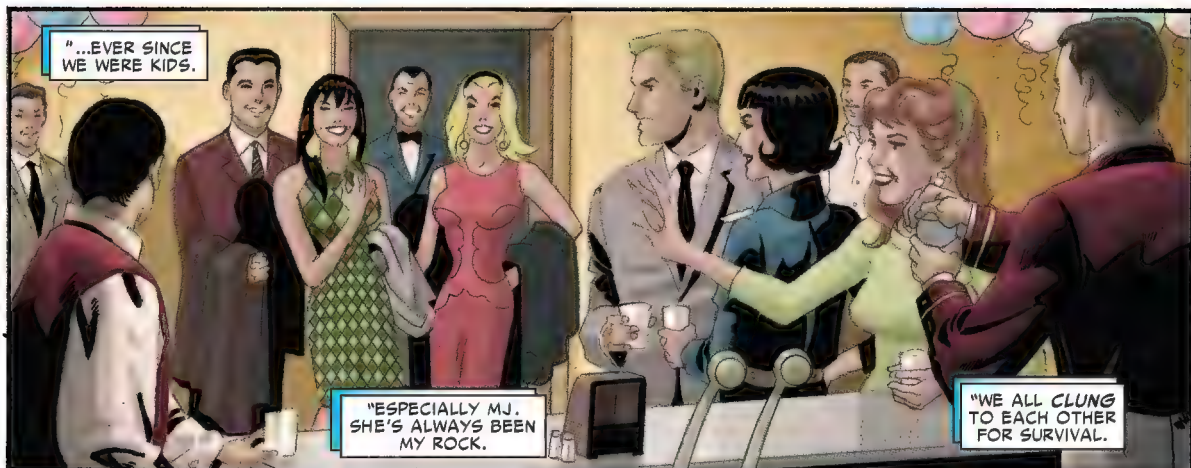
BRADY O'BRIEN, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

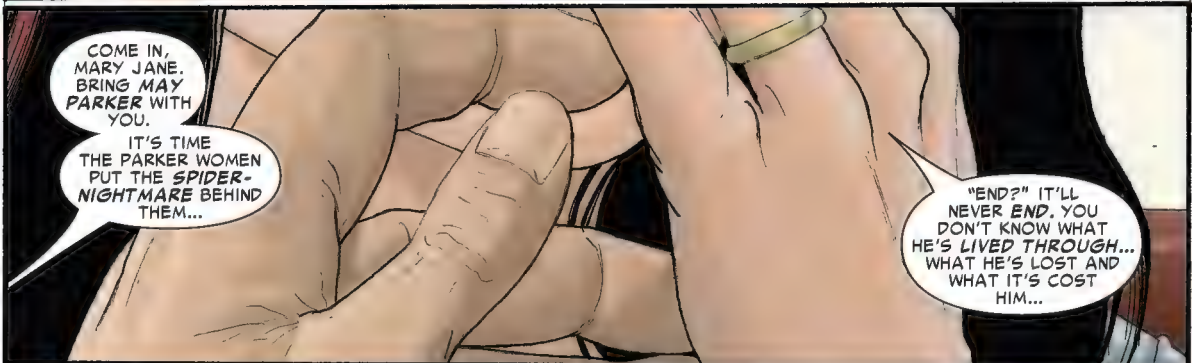
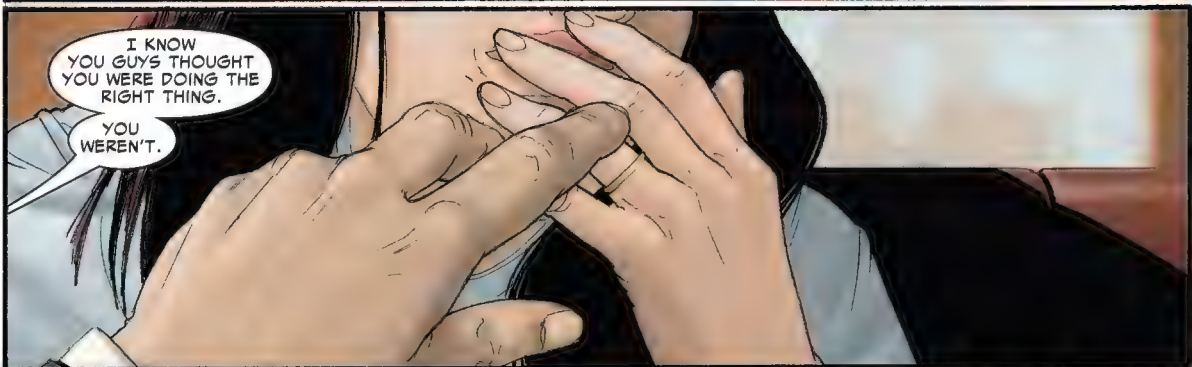
GIVE US PETER PARKER OR YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

HOPPER'S DINER:











"WHAT IT COST
ALL OF US..."

"WE WERE KIDS--
WE WERE BABIES.
AND THIS THING JUST
SUCKED US ALL IN."



"LIFE'S HARD ENOUGH THEN,
WHEN YOU'RE--I DON'T KNOW.
GROWING UP, BUT NOT QUITE
GROWN UP."

"WHEN ALL THOSE FORCES
AND PRESSURES ARE STILL
JUST FORMING THE THING
YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME."



"AND OUR LITTLE
FOURSOME MANAGED
TO BECOME MORE
THAN MOST."



"THE THING
IS--THE THING
ONLY PETE
KNEW, THE
BURDEN PETE
HAD TO CARRY
ALL ALONE--"

"I'M--THE
ONLY ONE...WHO
COULD KNOW THAT!
BECAUSE...I'M
SPIDER-MAN!"

"IT WAS HIS
NIGHTMARE. WE
WERE ALL JUST
LIVING IN IT."







IT'S RELENTLESS--
THE **DAMAGE**
CHILDHOOD CAN INFLICT.
PETER, ME--HELL--
YOU TOO, FOR ALL
I KNOW.

I USED TO
PRETEND STUFF.
TO HELP ME GET
THROUGH IT.



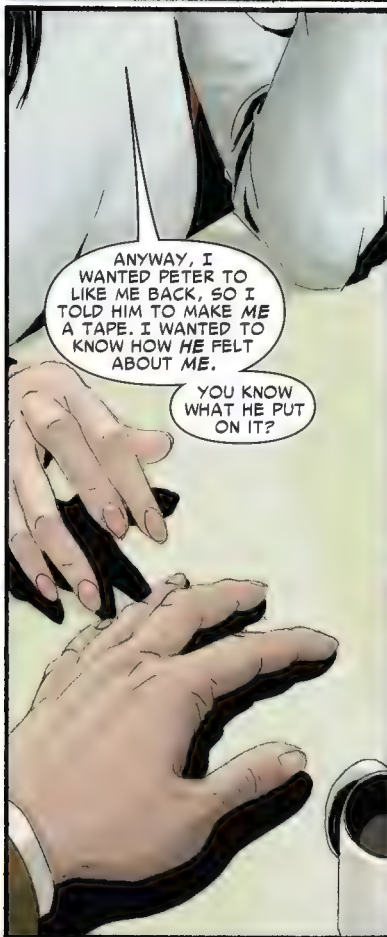
I WAS A
PARTY GIRL. OR
I **PRETENDED** TO BE,
ANYWAY. AND I LOVED
MUSIC AND **SNEAKING**
OUT AND GOING TO
SHOWS AND--

--AND ANYWAY,
SO THAT'S WHAT
I DID. I WAS NEVER
ALONE, AND I NEVER
TOOK ANYTHING
SERIOUSLY.



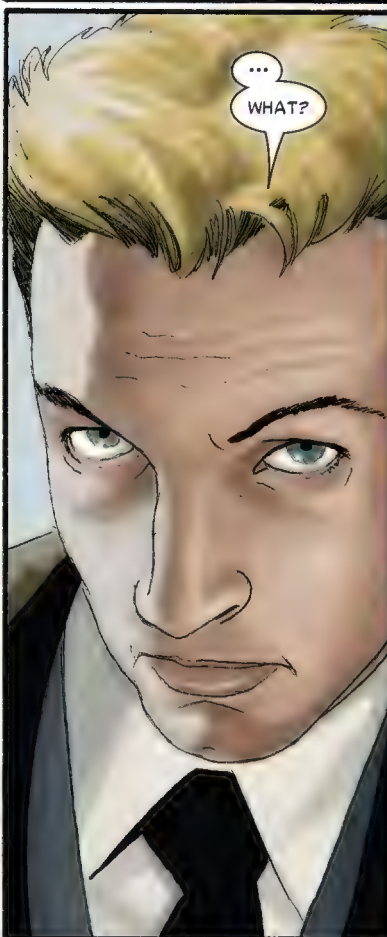
ONE CHRISTMAS, RIGHT BEFORE
WE GOT TOGETHER, I MADE HIM
THIS **MIXTAPE**. BECAUSE THAT'S
HOW YOU TELL BOYS YOU LIKE THEM.
YOU MAKE THEM TAPES FULL OF
SONGS THAT ARE **SECRETLY**
ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL.

I GOT SO
GOOD I DIDN'T EVEN
LEAVE **GAPS** BETWEEN
THE SONGS.



ANYWAY, I
WANTED PETER TO
LIKE ME BACK, SO I
TOLD HIM TO MAKE **ME**
A TAPE. I WANTED TO
KNOW HOW **HE** FELT
ABOUT ME.

YOU KNOW
WHAT HE PUT
ON IT?

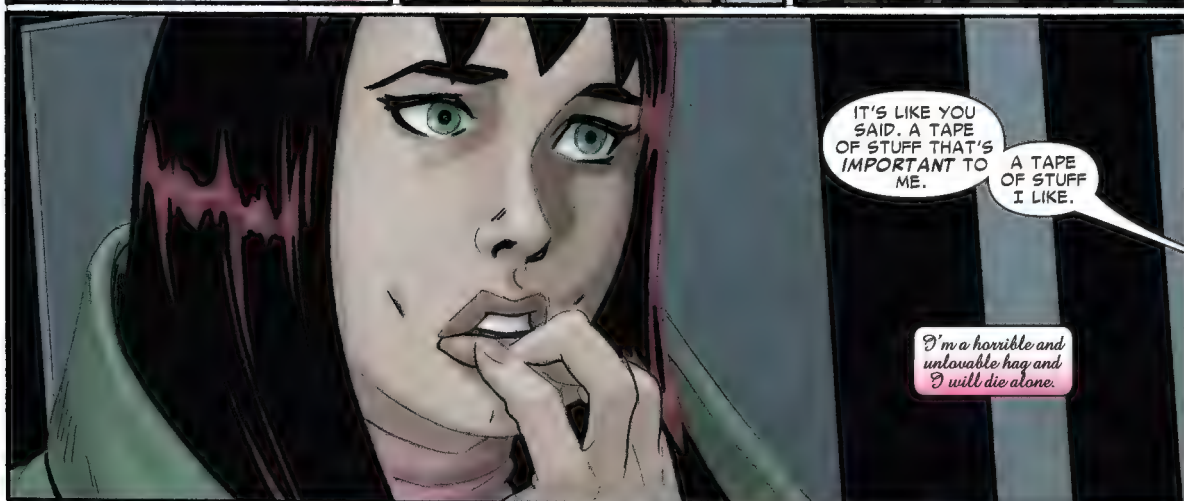


...
WHAT?



THE AUDIO
FROM A HALF-EPIISODE
OF NOVA HE TAPED OFF
PBS ABOUT **RHINOS** AND
A RICHARD FEYNMAN
LECTURE ON **MAGNETIC**
FIELDS.

MAGNETIC
FIELDS. GET
IT?





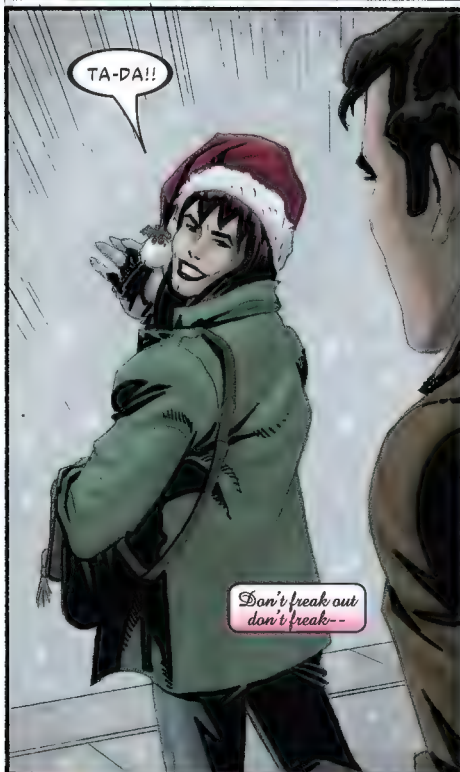
WELL, IN SPITE OF YOUR GIANT NERD-OSITY, I STILL GOT YOU SOMETHING.

ME?

Please.

WELL, I GOT SOMETHING, BUT IT'S FOR YOU.

Oh please.



TA-DA!!

Don't freak out
don't freak--



SEE?
IT'S--

Oh no.

IT'S
A HAT.

...
YEAH.



WITH STUFF
DANGLING OFF
OF IT.

You freaked him
out you desperate
loser...



IT'S
MISTLE--

HEY,
I'M GONNA
GO.

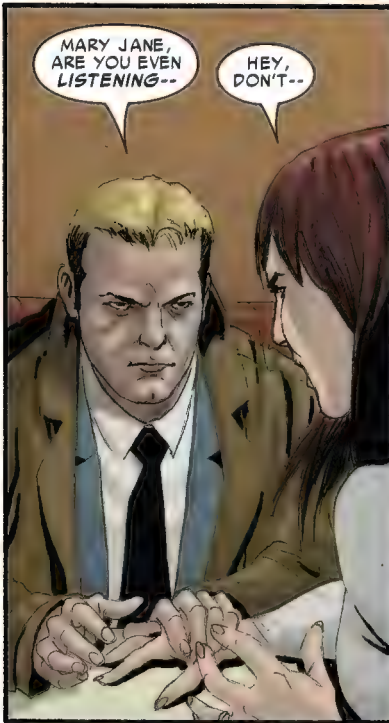
MISTLETOE.
ON A HAT.

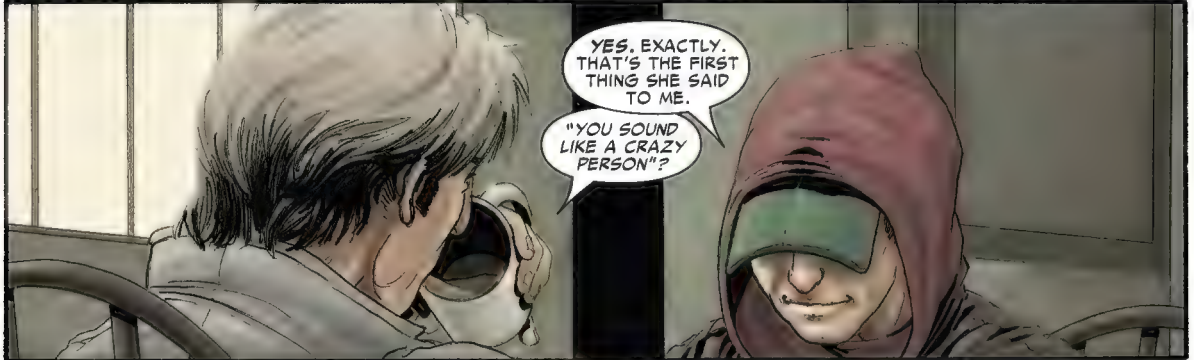
Alone. You're
gonna die alone.

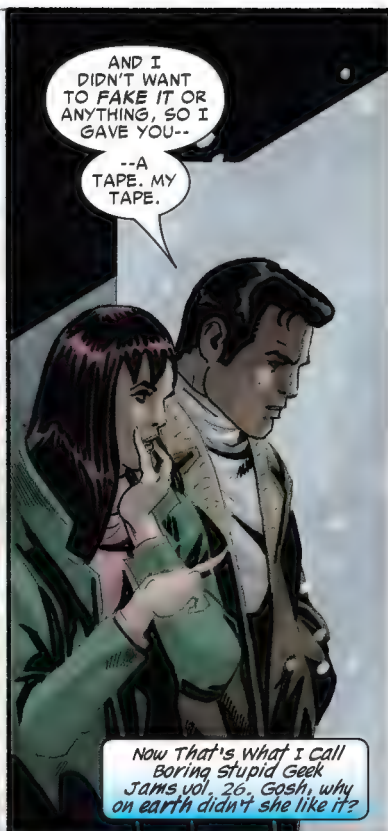
YEAH.

I GOTTA--
THERE'S A THING,
OKAY? I'LL TALK TO
YOU LATER.

Alone and
probably fat.









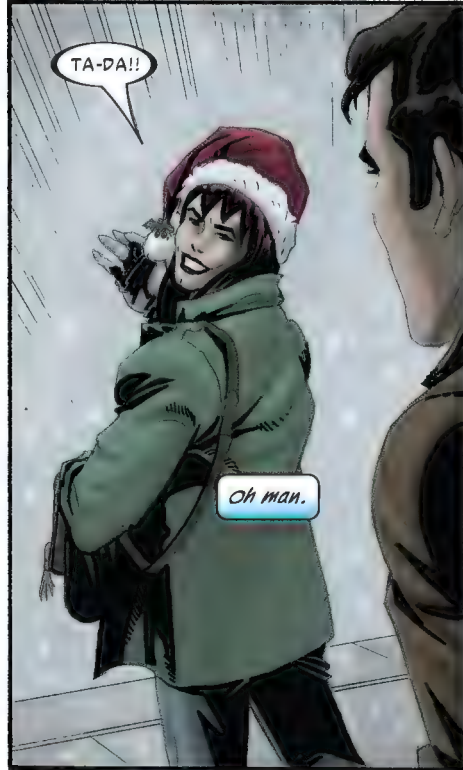
WELL, IN
SPITE OF YOUR
GIANT NERD-OSITY,
I STILL GOT YOU
SOMETHING.

ME?

Uh-oh.

WELL, I
GOT SOMETHING,
BUT IT'S FOR
YOU.

What's
she--



TA-DA!!

Oh man.



SEE?
IT'S--

IT'S A
HAT.

Oh--Oh
man. Mistletoe
means--

...
YEAH.



WITH STUFF
DANGLING OFF
OF IT.

Mistletoe
means she
wants you
to kiss--



IT'S
MISTLE--

HEY,
I'M GONNA
GO.

Kiss her,
you chicken.

MISTLETOE.
ON A HAT.

YEAH.

I GOTTA--
THERE'S A THING,
OKAY? I'LL TALK TO
YOU LATER.

Chicken.
Stupid, boring
Chicken-Man.



SHE WAS NEVER A SUPERMODEL TO ME--SHE WAS ALWAYS JUST THE GIRL NEXT DOOR. I MEAN, SURE, SHE LOOKED LIKE A SUPERMODEL AND EVERYTHING, BUT, Y'KNOW. YEAH. I COULDN'T QUITE--COULDN'T--

RIGHT, RIGHT, HOPELESS NERD, SCARED OF GIRLS, GOT IT. HANG ON.



YEAH. YEAH--REALLY? YEAH.

NO, I CAN'T GET--I'M ACROSS TOWN, I CAN'T GET DOWN THERE IN TIME.

YEAH. NO, GO GET 'ER FOR ME, OKAY? YEAH.



THE FEDS'RE CALLING EVERYBODY THEY CAN IN TO HELP WITH THIS, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE GOT--

I KNOW. SHE KINDA JUST PAGED ME.

YEAH. WELL, THEY'VE GOT HER.



SOME LITTLE COFFEE JOINT DOWNTOWN.

THE COFFEE BEAN.



GO SAVE YOUR WIFE AND NEVER TALK TO ME AGAIN.

LAMONT--



GO--

GONE.



SURE, WE'RE
BROKE AND ON THE
RUN ALL THE TIME
BUT, HEY.

IT'S MY
MARRIAGE,
YOU KNOW?



Y'KNOW, I
WAS THINKING
ABOUT THIS THE
OTHER DAY--

BUT WHEN I
WAS RICHEST,
I WAS ALSO
KIND OF AT MY
POOREST,
TOO.



"IT'S GREAT
BEING RICH.

"BUT--L.A.
CAN BE A REAL
LONELY TOWN.



"YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M TALKING
ABOUT.

"IT'S FUNNY--BUT NOW,
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER
WHY WE *SEPARATED*.
ONLY THAT IT WAS THE
WORST TIME. THE *WORST*."

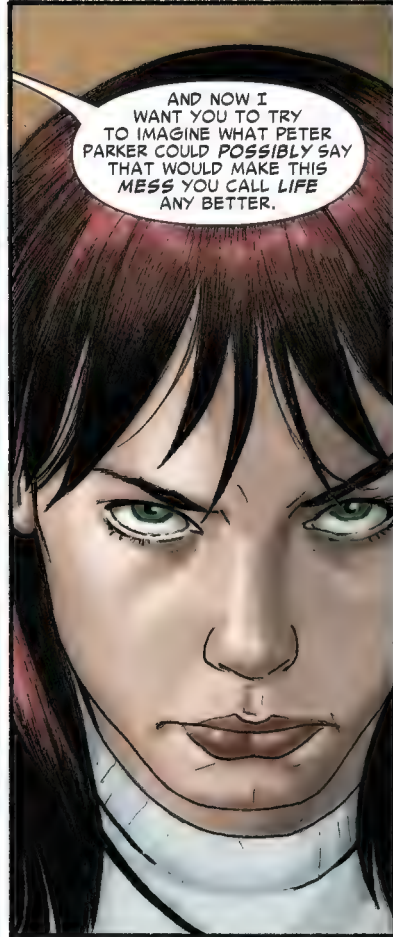
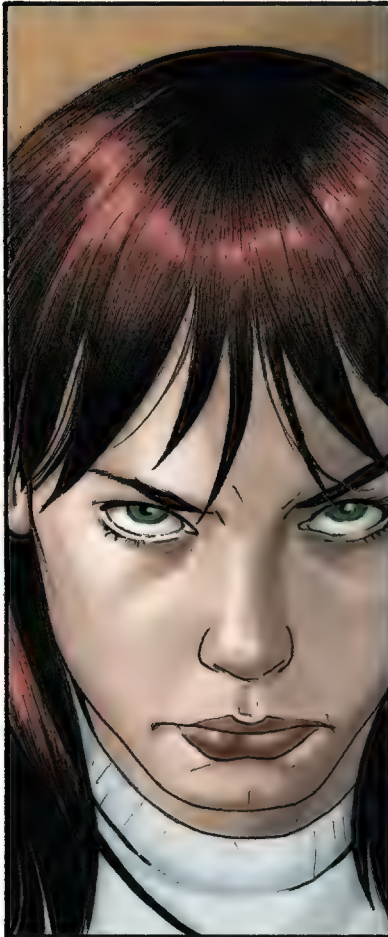
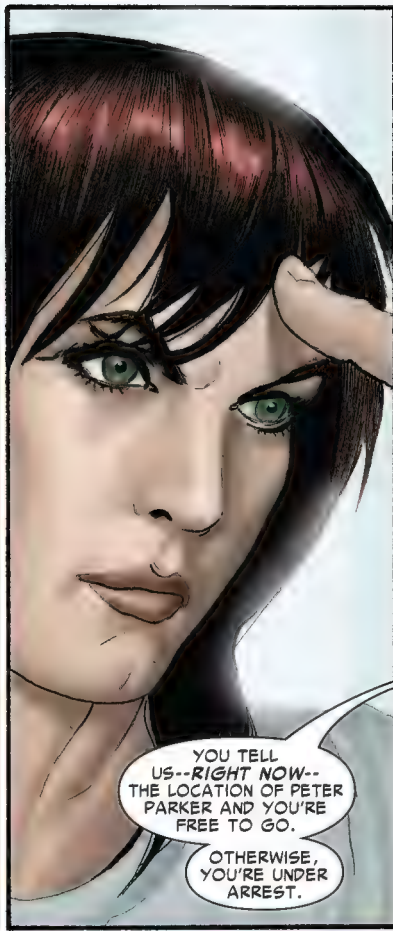
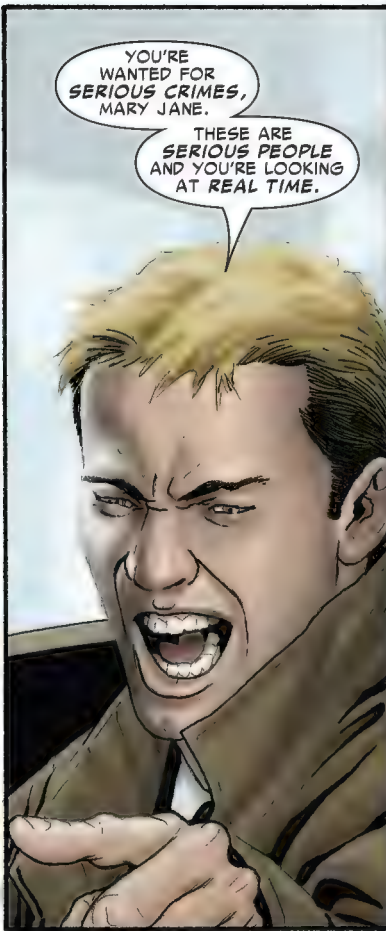


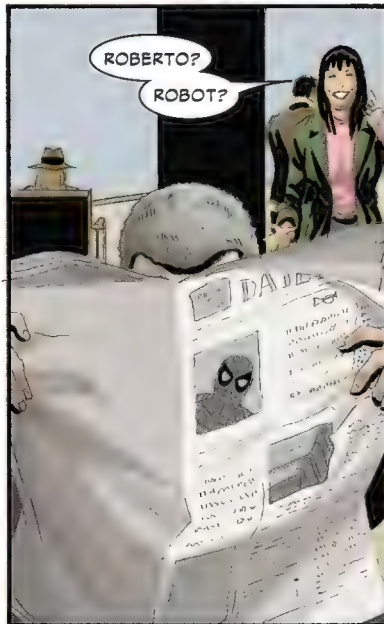
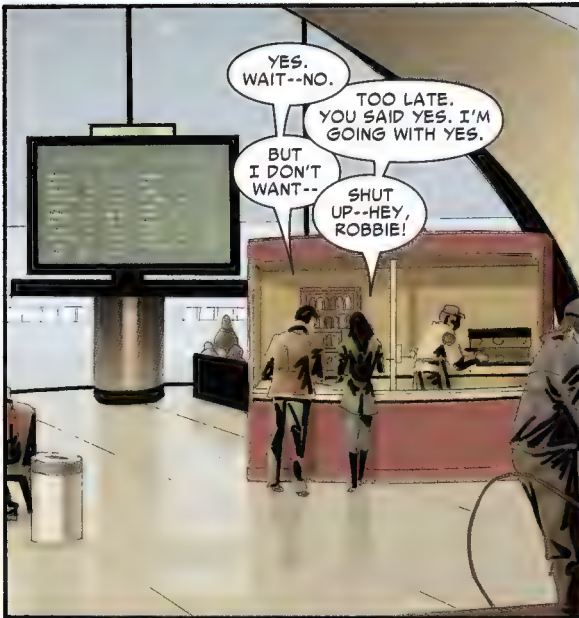
BUT
WE--I--

I FELT
SOMETHING,
MARY JANE. WE
COULD'VE--

WHAT?

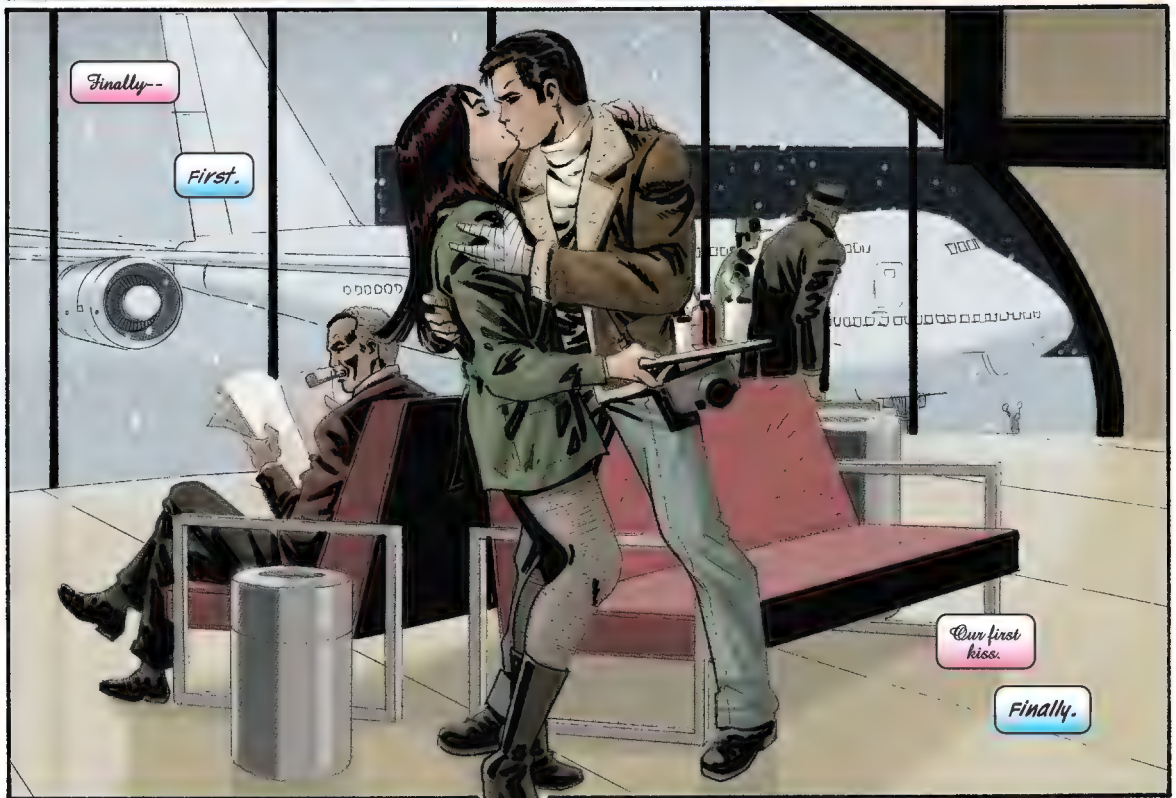


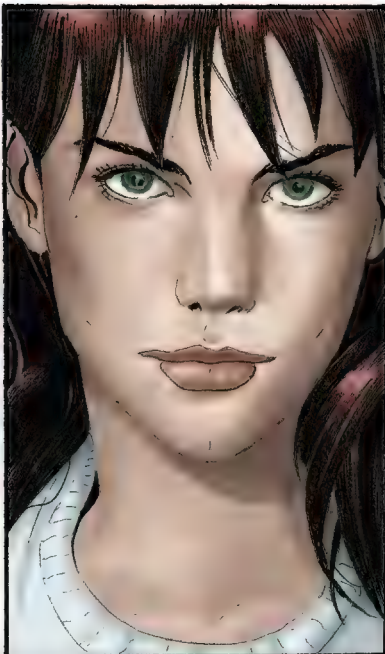
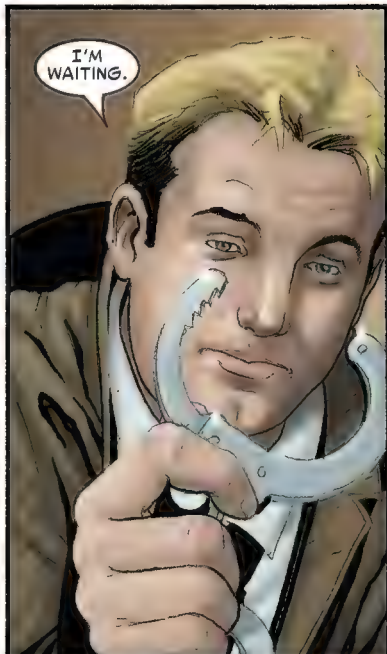






*Do it, Pete.
Just grab
her and--*





I WASN'T
RAMBLING, BRADY. I
WAS STALLING.

I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU'VE MET
MY HUSBAND...

SPIDER-MAN,
BRADY, BRADY,
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN.

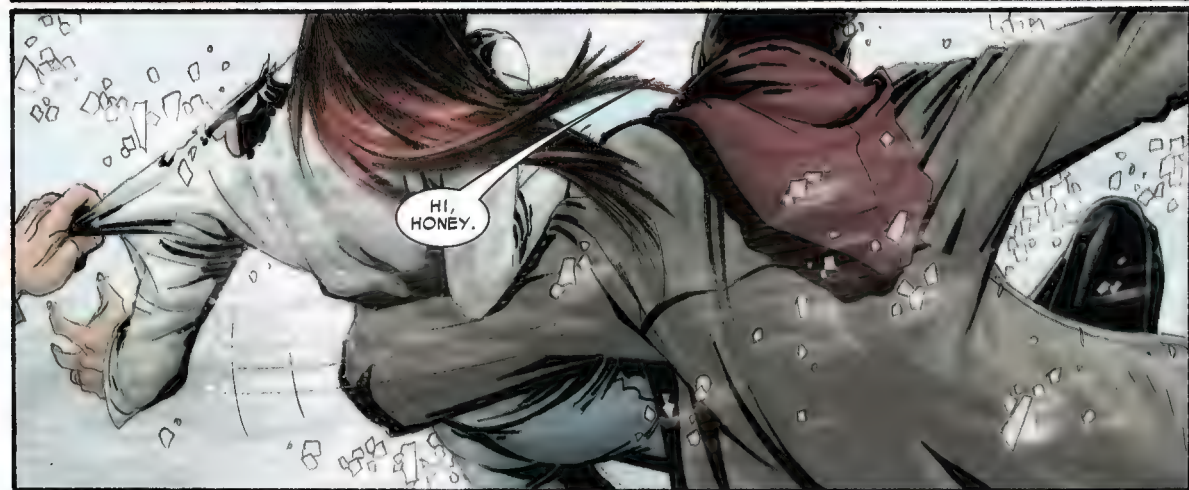
ALL
STATIONS--
CONTACT
IMMINENT--

--ROGER
THAT--

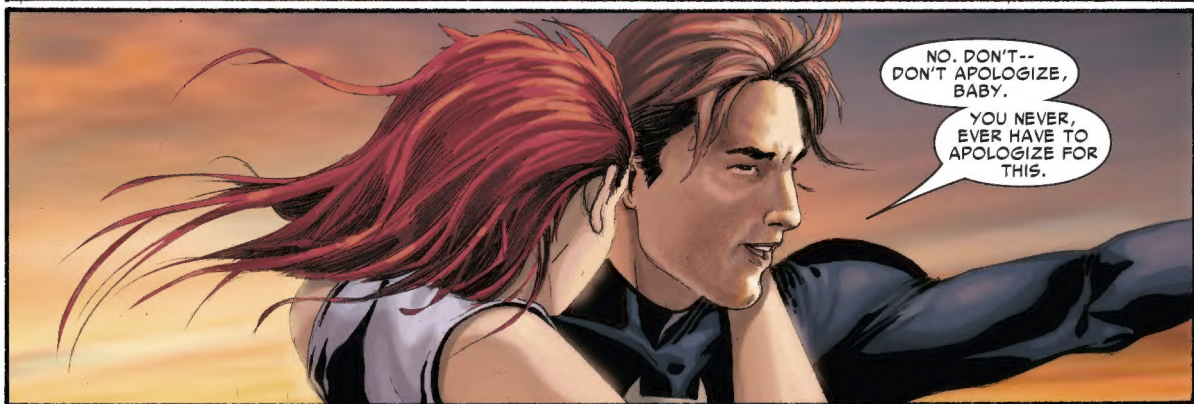
--I'VE GOT
VISUAL--

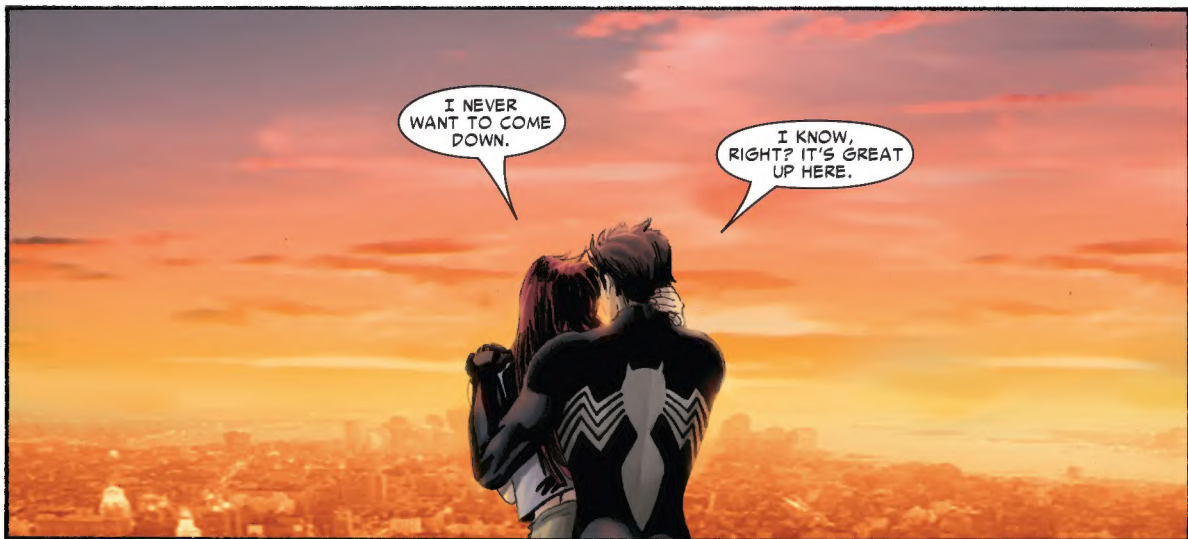
OH
BOY.

--TARGET
ACQUIR--









I NEVER
WANT TO COME
DOWN.

I KNOW,
RIGHT? IT'S GREAT
UP HERE.



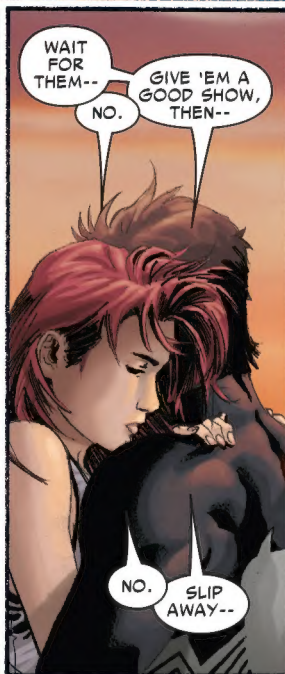
IT'S LIKE
YOU COULD FIGURE
YOUR WHOLE LIFE
OUT UP HERE IF YOU
HAD--

--IF YOU
HAD A LIFE THAT
WASN'T ALL JACKED
UP AND WEIRD LIKE
OURS, MAYBE.



YOU COULD STILL DO IT,
IF YOU WANTED. TURN
YOURSELF IN. I COULD
HIDE SOMEWHERE--

NO.



WAIT
FOR
THEM--

GIVE 'EM A
GOOD SHOW,
THEN--

NO.

NO. SLIP
AWAY--



NO, TIGER.
ONE, NO. TWO,
IT'D NEVER WORK
AND THREE--

NO.
NOW SAY IT
BACK.

NO.

YES.
THERE YOU
GO.



MAYBE THE REST
OF THE WORLD THINKS
MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING
TO DO BETWEEN OTHER
MARRIAGES, BUT IT
MEANS SOMETHING TO
ME. YOU'RE MY PARTNER
AND MY HUSBAND AND
I LOVE YOU.

THIS
IS OUR
LIFE.



YEAH.
YOU AND
ME.
FOREVER
AND ALWAYS.

To Have and To Hold

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SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #38:



EDDIE BROCK RETURNS!